

Message Text

SECRET

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FOR SECRETARY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, TZ, WA, KE, UG

SUBJECT: NYERERE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS

REF: A) STATE 175081 AND 177786, B) STATE 178403

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT NYERERE STATES CATEGORICAL OPPOSITION TO UK INTERVENTION NOW IN RHODESIA, RESTRESSES IMPORTANCE OF NAMIBIA AS PROBLEM THAT CAN BE MOVED, AND STANDS ON HIS VIEW THAT SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF IS NOT A COLONIAL PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH NYERERE MORNING JULY 22, I DELIVERED SECRETARY'S LETTER (REF A) SAYING IT WAS A PRIVATE COMMUNICATION ON UN ISSUES. NYERERE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT OTHER THAN TO SAY HE WOULD STUDY IT CAREFULLY.

3. RECALLING OUR CONVERSATION OF PREVIOUS SUNDAY (JULY 18) ON FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN UGANDA-KENYA QUARREL, I USED LANGUAGE PARA 1(A) REF B TO SAY USG HAD NO INTEREST IN INTERFERING AND WAS REASSURED THAT NYERERE FELT EAST AFRICA STATES COULD HANDLE SITUATION. HE NODDED APPROVINGLY.

4. ON LONDON OBSERVER STORY RE UK MILITARY INTERVENTION RHODESIA, I SAID THERE CONTINUED BE MUCH PRESS COVERAGE THIS SUBJECT, SOME OF WHICH EXPANDING ORIGINAL ERRORS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT OTHER

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GOVERNMENTS MIGHT HAVE HAD TO SAY ON SUBJECT BUT USG WANTED HIM

TO KNOW OUR POSITION ON IT. I THEN GAVE HIM GUIDANCE PROVIDED
PARA 1(B) REF B. HE READ IT AND SAID, "GOOD."

5. NYERERE THEN SAID HE WANTED US UNDERSTAND WHY HE VIGOROUSLY
OPPOSED IDEA OF BRITISH INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA AT THIS TIME.
IN APRIL LAST YEAR BRITISH HAD TOLD HIM THEY PREPARED CALL CON-
FERENCE, INVITE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS AND SMITH AND BEGIN
PROCESS ESTABLISHING MAJORITY RULE. IF SMITH REFUSED COME, UK
WOULD GO AHEAD WITHOUT HIM. NYERERE PREPARED APPROVE BUT BRITISH
DID NOT ACT AND BY NOVEMBER NYERERE HAD CONCLUDED THAT NKOMO-
SMITH TALKS WOULD FAIL AND SMITH WAS SIMPLY HAVING ONE SUCCESS
AFTER ANOTHER. THUS, SMITH COULD NOT BE TREATED AS BEING
IRRELEVANT, AND BRITISH WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT ENFORCE ANYTHING
HE DIDN'T ACCEPT.

6. THEREFORE, NYERERE BELIEVED, ONLY THING TO DO ON RHODESIA NOW
WAS TO LET THE MILITARY PRESSURE OF THE GUERRILLAS CONTINUE TO BE
FELT ON SMITH. ALREADY, NYERERE HEARD, SOME YOUNG WHITE RHODESIANS
WERE ASKING WHAT ARE WE DYING FOR. MAYBE WE SHOULD SETTLE. WHEN
THERE WAS ENOUGH OF THIS, SMITH WOULD BE FORCED OUT OR WOULD HAVE
TO DEAL. THIS WAS THE FORMULA FOR RHODESIA, NOT GETTING
VORSTER TO DO THINGS TO OR FOR SMITH. THE REAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR VORSTER LAY IN FREEING NAMIBIA. NYERERE WANTED EVERYBODY
TO WORK ON THAT: "GET VORSTER TO STOP BEING 'IMPERIALIST' IN
NAMIBIA; THEN GET HIM TO STOP BEING 'RACISH' AT HOME. AFTER
THAT, MAYBE HE COULD HELP ON RHODESIA IF THAT PROBLEM ISN'T
SOLVED BY THEN."

7. I REMARKED THAT I HAD HEARD THERE HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BUT
VIGOROUS MOVE AT OAU SUMMIT IN MAURITIUS TO DECLARE SOUTH AFRICA
A COLONIAL PROBLEM. WAS THIS THEORETICAL QUESTION GOING TO POP
UP AGAIN? NYERERE SAID NOT IF HE COULD PREVENT IT. MANY
AFRICANS HAD NOT GIVEN SUFFICIENT THOUGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA QUES-
TION. THEY THOUGHT THEY KNEW HOW TO HANDLE "COLONIAL" PROBLEMS
AND BY NAMING SOUTH AFRICAN "COLONIAL", SOLUTION WOULD BE EASY.
THIS WAS NONSENSE. SOUTH AFRICA IS INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, MEMBER
OF THE UN, A VERY DIFFERENT SITUATION. ALL VORSTER WOULD HAVE
TO DO IN RESPONSE TO THE "IMPERIALIST COLONIALIST" CHARGES WAS
TO SAY I'M GETTING READY TO DEIMPERIALIZE IN NAMIBIA AND I AM
ALREADY DECOLONIZING IN THE BANTUSTANS. AFRICA WANTED MORE THAN
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THAT OUT OF VORSTER.

8. NYERERE WAS IN RELAXED, EASY "MWALIMU" MOOD. ENDED BY
SAYING HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH IF ANYTHING NEW DEVELOPED.
SPAIN

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